

sister. Two of their four children, Luke and Mimi, went with them.]

Knowing that conditions in Havana are hard—at least by American standards—is one thing.

Seeing the sad and pitiful conditions and the obvious presence of a military state is another.

We were immediately shocked, revolted and angry to find a manned military station almost every two blocks on Quinta Avenida (5th Avenue), the main travel artery in Havana, where our hotel, the Comodoro, was on the ocean.

Security personnel, wearing blue trousers, white shirts and ties, were armed with handheld radios and/or side arms and monitored every activity of hotel life.

No matter what their dress, they were military men—and I believe our every move was watched and charted. We were the only Americans in the hotel and, the waiters told us, most likely the only Americans who will visit the hotel this year, even though it was for tourists with American dollars.

Local Cubans were not welcome. They could not drive their ragged automobiles to the hotel entrance. They could not park in the parking lot. They were not permitted to go into the guest's rooms. A very small number was tolerated in the lobby.

Sonia was injured while we were there, and I insisted the guard permit some of her relatives into our room. Just as soon as I left for the hospital, they were required to leave and return to the lobby.

Apparently, this military dictatorship is highly organized and so closely administered that every phase of life in Cuba today is controlled by Castro. A medical doctor is paid between 400 and 600 hundred pesos—or, at 22 pesos to a dollar—between \$18 and \$27 a month. More than one of the drivers of state-controlled taxis told us he is paid 140 pesos—or \$6.32—a month.

At our hotel, graduate engineers were washing windows. An electronics engineer was training to be a waiter. A University of Havana graduate in language, a young man who spoke good English, was also training to be a waiter rather than teach English at the university.

I met a friend I knew in the '50s who had studied in an American university. At great personal risk, he supported Castro's revolution, carried ammunition, food, radios, medicines, etc., from the Guantanamo Naval base to the Rebels in the Oriente Mountains, labored for Castro's regime almost 40 years and alienated most of his blood family.

Today he works in a sensitive job 12 and 14-hour-days and is paid 325 pesos or \$14.77 a month.

I visited a number of other Cuban friends I knew in the 1950s. Their households were much alike. There were no recent photographs because they cannot afford a camera or the film that sells in Castro's stores for American dollars. They have no adequate radio, no working television, no transportation except maybe one Chinese bicycle. They have no wrist watches except some pitiful Soviet watches that lose 5 minutes each day. They are allowed one 100-pound tank of LP gas from Mexico for cooking and hot water at a cost of 11 pesos. If and when this tank is empty, a replacement costs \$26 (572 pesos) which is more than a month's wages.

So much walking is necessary, but no one seemed to have adequate walking shoes. Most of my friends' family members have very few clothes, and what they do have is worn and mostly in tatters.

POOR LIVING CONDITIONS

Kitchens and baths are old and tired. Faucets leak and drip. So do the drains under

the sinks and lavatories. Very few houses showed any signs of having been repaired or painted.

People are required to attend block meetings where they gossip and report the activities of their neighbors. I took my Timex watch off and gave it to one of my friends. He was happy and pleased but afraid to wear it for fear of the neighbors. They are morose and have little optimism or hope.

Since the Soviets fell and their aid ceased, Castro calls this "A Special Time." The adjective they use to describe this special time is "siempre," English for "always."

Quinta Avenida, the main avenue in all Havana, is deteriorating badly, the paving is cracked and very rough, as are the sidewalks and curbs. I saw holes 3 feet deep washed out behind storm gratings that were dangerous to the many pedestrians. Most of the lampposts had wires pulled out and taped together.

Generally the infrastructure of Havana streets—bridges, walks, parks—is in very poor condition. But the military manned their innumerable posts.

I was introduced to Cuba in 1945 while flying off the carrier Roosevelt. I returned to Guantanamo Naval Base while flying with an anti-submarine squadron. I loved the people. They worked hard building their houses and families. They were fun to be with, happy and lighthearted, had many parties, and danced to wonderful music.

I have lived and visited many countries in the world but never found one like Cuba, where the weather enfolds you in a pleasant comfort zone and the eye rests on pure beauty.

While I was there, I met a school teacher, Sonia, and fell desperately in love, courting her for three years before we married. We have lived in the USA together since October 1957. We have three wonderful sons and a beautiful daughter, all university educated, married successfully, and they have given us six lovely grand children.

BEAUTY HAS DISAPPEARED

But the beautiful Cuba I knew is no more.

I am not qualified to evaluate or judge Fidel Castro's motives for turning a beautiful country into a lower level Third World country. If he is altruistic and wants what is best for the Cuban people, then as an economist, he is an idiot, and his understanding of human psychology is on the level of a moron.

I do not believe he is either of the two. He was raised in a cultured family, is a graduate of the University of Havana and an experienced attorney. He is a battle-tested military leader who defeated his enemies.

His motivation must come from a super ego that demands that he wield total control over the Cuban society and over the life of each individual Cuban. The terrible injustice, and imbalance he has thrust into the lives of the Cuban people has engendered mistrust, suspicion and jealousy of neighbor for neighbor. His system is destroying the incentive to work and achieve, to make free and independent decisions for their own lives, to hope for something better for their children, and maybe enjoy some measure of peace and happiness for their senior years.

The depth of sadness that pervades the Cuban society today is only exceeded by the pervasive evil of a communist system that is destroying the higher human qualities of millions of people.

Castro made the deliberate choice to embrace Marxism-Leninism at a time that most world leaders had already decided that it was a total failure.

WHERE IS CASTRO?

I saw no sign of Fidel Castro on any billboard or building as we drove around Havana. It is as if he does not exist. One does

see signs of Che Guevara, but not Castro. I heard not one single word of condemnation or support for Fidel Castro, but I did hear a lot of criticism of the system.

As we arrived back in the United States, my daughter, Mimi, said, "What disturbs me most is that Castro has succeeded in making the Cuban people equally poor—from the doctor who makes \$18 to \$26 a month and must drive a cab at night just to make ends meet, to the waiter in training who is not paid anything. They are all victims of Castro."

"The trip was a pilgrimage," Sonia said. "I went, I prayed, I visited what is left of my family there. But, this Cuba is not my home." And there were tears.

I am joining Senator Helms, the Miami Cuban community, even Mas Canosa, and the conservatives who unflinchingly resist any softening of the Cuban embargo.

The Cuban people are suffering badly and should be relieved. But any plan of relief advanced so far will strengthen Castro and his ever-tightening control of every facet of the lives of every single Cuban living in that unhappy island. This is a very difficult decision, but I believe it must be made.

While we were in Cuba, two hotels were bombed, a school was totally destroyed by fire, and I was told by a man who left Santiago, Monday, July 14, that the downed aircraft out of that city that killed all 40 aboard was the work of a terrorist bomb.

He also told me that life in Oriente Province—the one that gave Castro his start—is so desperate that they were leaving in droves to go to Havana.

WHAT OF FUTURE?

Buy today they are being forced to return. Now they are referred to as Palestinians, for they have no home. Just before I left Cuba, I tried to quietly warn my Cuban friends that the Miami Cubans were very wealthy, that they are very powerful, and that they hate Fidel Castro with a deep and pervasive hate, and there is no sign that they will ever relax this hate. I told my friend to be aware of this fact and that they should take what ever precautions they can take.

Do I believe that Fidel Castro is a threat to this country? At this time the answer is no. There are groups of academicians going from university to university in the U.S. conducting seminars designed to promote Castro.

But we must keep in mind that Castro, who is desperate, can and might at any time turn over a chunk of the Cuban island to any number of countries hostile to the U.S. They would be just 90 miles from our shore. Do I have any trust in Castro? Absolutely none.

While we were waiting in the Jose Marti airport, we talked to a Cuban lady from the U.S. who was visiting relatives for the first time in 30 years. With her was her daughter and her daughter's friend. Both the young ladies were attorneys with the N.Y. Justice Department and appeared to be in their mid-30s. We asked the friend of the daughter if she would ever make a return visit to Cuba.

"Yes," she said quietly, "in a thousand years," and then she added, "when I get back to New York City, I will break out my American flag. I will wave that flag. I will play the 'Star Spangled Banner.' And I will behave like the most patriotic American you have ever seen."

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 19

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending September 19, the United States imported 8,526,000

barrels of oil each day, 1,230,000 barrels more than the 7,296,000 imported each day during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 57.3 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil? By U.S. producers using American workers?

Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 8,526,000 barrels a day.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 24, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,384,224,726,974.01. (Five trillion, three hundred eighty-four billion, two hundred twenty-four million, seven hundred twenty-six thousand, nine hundred seventy-four dollars and one cent)

One year ago, September 24, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,195,855,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred ninety-five billion, eight hundred fifty-five million)

Five years ago, September 24, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$4,043,587,000,000. (Four trillion, forty-three billion, five hundred eighty-seven million)

Ten years ago, September 24, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,336,418,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred thirty-six billion, four hundred eighteen million)

Fifteen years ago, September 24, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,110,360,000,000 (One trillion, one hundred ten billion, three hundred sixty million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,273,864,726,974.01 (Four trillion, two hundred seventy-three billion, eight hundred sixty-four million, seven hundred twenty-six thousand, nine hundred seventy-four dollars and one cent) during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT CONCERNING THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO ANGOLA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 69

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report to the Congress on the developments since my last report on April 4, 1997, concerning the national emergency with respect to Angola that was declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

On September 26, 1993, I declared a national emergency with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola ("UNITA"), invoking the authority, *inter alia*, of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287c). Consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 864, dated September 15, 1993, the order prohibited the sale or supply by United States persons or from the United States, or using U.S.-registered vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles, equipment and spare parts, and petroleum and petroleum products to the territory of Angola other than through designated points of entry. The order also prohibited such sale or supply to UNITA. United States persons are prohibited from activities that promote or are calculated to promote such sales or supplies, or from attempted violations, or from evasion or avoidance or transactions that have the purpose of evasion or avoidance of the stated prohibitions. The order authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, as might be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order.

1. On December 10, 1993, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued the UNITA (Angola) Sanctions Regulations (the "Regulations") (58 *Fed. Reg.* 64904) to implement my declaration of a national emergency and imposition of sanctions against UNITA. The Regulations prohibit the sale or supply by United States persons or from the United States, or using U.S.-registered vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles, equipment and spare parts, and petroleum and petroleum products to UNITA or to the territory of Angola other than through designated points of entry.

United States persons are also prohibited from activities that promote or are calculated to promote such sales or supplies to UNITA or Angola, or from any transaction by any United States persons that evades or avoids, or has the purpose of evading or avoiding, or attempts to violate, any of the prohibitions set forth in the Executive order. Also prohibited are transactions by United States persons, or involving the use of U.S.-registered vessels or aircraft, relating to transportation to Angola or UNITA of goods the exportation of which is prohibited.

The Government of Angola has designated the following points of entry as points in Angola to which the articles otherwise prohibited by the Regulations may be shipped: *Airports:* Luanda and Katumbela, Benguela Province; *Ports:* Luanda and Lobito, Benuela Province; and *Namibe, Namibe Province;* and *Entry Points:* Malongo, Cabinda Province. Although no specific license is required by the Department of the Treasury for shipments to these designated points of entry (unless the item is destined for UNITA), any such exports remain subject to the licensing requirements of the Departments of State and/or Commerce.

There has been one amendment to the Regulations since my report of April 3, 1997. The UNITA (Angola) Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR Part 590, were amended on August 25, 1997. General reporting, recordkeeping, licensing, and other procedural regulations were moved from the Regulations to a separate part (31 CFR Part 501) dealing solely with such procedural matters. (62 *Fed. Reg.* 45098, August 25, 1997). A copy of the amendment is attached.

2. The OFAC has worked closely with the U.S. financial community to assure a heightened awareness of the sanctions against UNITA—through the dissemination of publications, seminars, and notices to electronic bulletin boards. This educational effort has resulted in frequent calls from banks to assure that they are not routing funds in violation of these prohibitions. United States exporters have also been notified of the sanctions through a variety of media, including via the Internet, Fax-on-Demand, special fliers, and computer bulletin board information initiated by OFAC and posted through the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Government Printing Office. There have been no license applications under the program since my last report.

3. The expenses incurred by the Federal Government in the 6-month period from March 26, 1997, through September 25, 1997, that are directly attributable to the exercise of powers and authorities conferred by the declaration of a national emergency with respect to UNITA are approximately \$50,000, most of which represent wage and salary costs for Federal personnel. Personnel costs were largely centered in